

No. 8929 號九十二百九千八第 日二十月七年二十緒光 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11th, 1886. 三拜禮 號一十月八英港香 [PRICE \$2] PER MONTH

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O'D. HARMAN, Agent
Aug. 11th August, 1886.

EXTRACT.

THE CHILD SEY.

They called him Stenno—young Stenno. He was a real Paris boy, nifty and pale, perhaps 10 and perhaps 15 years old—for with these things you can never tell. His mother was dead and his father, formerly a soldier in the marine, was the guardian of a square in the Quartier du Temple. Everybody knew Father Stenno and loved him—babies, nurses, poor women and the old ladies, with their camptules—in fact, the whole of that part of Paris which seeks a refuge from passing carriages in these flower plots surrounded by side walls. Everybody knew what a pleasant, sympathetic smile the old fellow had behind his bristling moustache, both the terror of the dogs and loafers, and they also knew that to call up that smile they had but to ask—

"How is the little boy to-day?"

How old Father Stenno loved that boy! He felt so happy when the little fellow came for him in the evening after school, and they walked down the alleys hand in hand, stopping before each bench to greet the regular visitors and answer their polite questions.

Unfortunately the siege changed all this. Father Stenno's square was closed, and petroleum was stored there; so the poor old man, ever on the watch, and not allowed to move, passed his life wandering alone among the deserted, deserted shrubs and trees. He could not see his son until late at night, at home, and you should have heard them talk about the Prussians and see his moustaches bristle up fiercely! Young Stenno did not complain much of his new life.

You see a siege is lots of fun for the boys; school is closed; no more examinations now; every day is a holiday, and the streets are like a fair.

The child used to stay out until midnight, running about everywhere. He followed the companies of his warlike as they tramped off to duty on the ramparts, and always picked out those that had the best band. Young Stenno was well up on this subject, and he could tell you why the band of the Ninety-sixth was poor and why that of the Fifty-fifth was so good. Then again he watched military drill. Besides these amusements there were the waiting processions, which formed before the doors of the butchers and bakers, in the dark winter mornings, when the lights were all out, and he could stand up in the line like a soldier, with his hands under his arms, and his feet in the slush and water; here he made acquaintances and talked politics, and, as he was the son of Mr. Stenno, everybody asked his opinion. But what was most fun was pitching pennies, and that famous game of "galoches," which the Breton militia had brought into fashion during the siege.

When you had won the game, the game, either on the ramparts or at the baker's, was pretty sure to be at the game of "galoches," on the square du Chateau d'Eau. He could not play, of course—that cost too much—but he looked on, and opened the biggest, greediest eyes in the world.

There was one fellow in the crowd, a snook, whom he admired especially. He only had dollar chips and when he ran you could hear the silver jingle in his pockets.

One day as he was picking up a coin which had rolled away and stopped just at young Stenno's feet, the big fellow said to him in a low voice: "It makes you squint, does it? Well, if you want to know, I'll tell you where you can get some."

When the game was over, he led him to a corner of the square and proposed to him to go with him and sell newspapers to the Prussians; he got 30 francs a trip. Stenno refused at first and was highly indignant. For three days he had not seen the snook, and what awful days those three were! He could not eat or sleep. At night he dreamed of piles of galoches at the foot of his bed, and of shining dollars, slipping along on their faces. The temptation was too strong, and on the fourth day he had made up his mind. "Eau," he said to himself, "and allowed himself to be talked over."

One morning they started out, each with a cloth bag slung across his shoulder, and with the newspapers hidden under his blouse. It was hardly light when they reached the "Flandre gate." The big boy took him by the hand and led him to the gate, then he said to him in a whispering voice: "Kind air, do let us pass, please sir, mother's ill and father's dead, and my young brother and I want to get out into the field and try to find some potatoes."

He was actually crying. Stenno, ashamed of himself, hung his head. The Prussian looked at them a moment, then down the solitary white road.

"Pass, then, quickly," he said, standing aside, and they found themselves on the road to Aubervilliers. How the big fellow laughed!

Indistinctly, as in a dream, young Stenno noticed the factors that the row was used as barracks—and, garnished with wet rags, and the high chimneys that pierced the fog and threw up their empty, broken walls towards the clouds. Here and there a sentinel, hooded officers scanning the horizon through their glasses; little tents soaked with thawing snow, before which the campfires were dying.

The big fellow knew the roads well, and where to cut across the fields to avoid the pickets; still, notwithstanding these precautions, they fell upon an outpost of sharpshooters, wrapped in their short cloaks and huddled up in a ditch half full of water, that runs along the railroad track of Soissons.

Here the big fellow repeated his tale in vain; they would not allow him to pass. "Well, he stood there complaining all an old sergeant stepped out of the crossing keeper's house; his hair was white, and with his wrinkles he looked somewhat like Father Stenno.

"Come, come boys, don't stand there crying," he said to the children; "they'll let you through after your potatoes, but just come in here and get warm. That youngster looks fresh."

Alas! Young Stenno was trembling all over, not with cold, but with shame and fear. Inside they found a few soldiers crouched around a dying fire—a real soldier's fire, as they say—in the flame of which they were to thaw some biscuits on the point of their bayonets. They moved up close to the make room for the children, and gave them a little coffee and a drop of brandy. While they were drinking an officer called out to the sergeant from the door, said a few words to him and hurried off.

The sergeant returned in high glee. "Boys," he said, "grog all night! We have got the bayonets of the Prussians, and this time I think we'll take the Bourget away from them."

There was a burst of applause, and the men began to dance and to sing, while some of them polished up their bayonets. Taking advantage of this confusion, the children escaped.

Beyond the trench they struck the plain, at the end of which loomed up a low white wall, broken by loopholes. They were straight for the wall, stopping at every step to look, as though they were picking up potatoes.

"Let us go home—don't let us go on," young Stenno said, saying. The other boys shrugged his shoulders and kept on advancing. Suddenly they heard the click of a gun being cocked.

"Lie down!" cried the elder, throwing himself on the ground.

As he lay there he whistled—and another whistle answered over the snow. They advanced, slowly creeping on all fours. On a

level with the ground, and just before the wall, a yellow moustache appeared under a sheet. The big boy jumped into the ditch, the side of the Prussian.

"That is my brother," he said, pointing to his companion.

The boy Stenno was so small that the Prussian began to laugh as he looked at him, and seized him in his arms to lift him up to the breach in the wall, on the other side of which rose heavy, barren clumps of trees, tall, dark trunks, and black holes in the snow, in each of which you just saw the same greasy cap and the same yellow moustache that laughed as the boys passed.

In one corner stood the gardener's house with two trunks for easements. The lower floor was full of soldiers playing cards, while some were coming and going over a large fire. It smelt so good of cabbage and leek—that a difference between that and the sharpshooters' camp! Upstairs the officers were playing the piano and uncorking champagne, and gave a joyful cheer as the boys entered. They gave their papers and the men began to give them theirs and to make them tell. Most of the officers looked like proud, force men, but the big fellow's slang and his caustic, monkey-like manners seemed to amuse them vastly. They laughingly repeated the words after him, taking a curious delight in wallowing in the mud which he brought them from Paris.

Young Stenno would have liked to say something, too, as to show them that he was no fool; either, but something embarrassed him. A little to one side, and facing him, sat a Prussian older than the rest, and more serious looking. He was reading, or pretending to read, for he never took his eyes off the boy, and there was something of tenderness and something of reproach in his look, as though he were thinking of his own son, just about Stenno's age, and were saying to himself—

"I had rather die than have my boy do such a thing."

And young Stenno felt as though a hand was placed upon his heart and kept it from beating. To forget this feeling he began to talk about the Prussians, and he could tell you why the band of the Ninety-sixth was poor and why that of the Fifty-fifth was so good. Then again he watched military drill. Besides these amusements there were the waiting processions, which formed before the doors of the butchers and bakers, in the dark winter mornings, when the lights were all out, and he could stand up in the line like a soldier, with his hands under his arms, and his feet in the slush and water; here he made acquaintances and talked politics, and, as he was the son of Mr. Stenno, everybody asked his opinion. But what was most fun was pitching pennies, and that famous game of "galoches," which the Breton militia had brought into fashion during the siege.

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 1886.

WOULD A MUNICIPALITY WORK IN
HONGKONG?

In considering a scheme for the formation of a municipality in Hongkong one of the first points to be decided would be the limits of the municipality—whether it would include the city of Victoria only, or take in also Kowloon and the Peak. The outlying villages, would of course be left to the sole care of the Colonial Government. This preliminary point settled, there would next come the question of the readjustment of the positions of various officials whose departments would be affected by the creation of the new body. First of these would come the Surveyor-General, the Colonial Surgeon, and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. In most of the municipalities at home the Police Force is subject to the Municipal Council, but situated as Hongkong is it would probably not be considered advisable to interfere with the present system in that department. The arrangements for extinguishing fires in the city, however, would of course naturally fall entirely within the scope of the Municipal Council, and the Fire Department would have to be taken over bodily. Then with regard to sanitation, the Municipal Council would have to take over the Inspectors of Nuisances and would require the assistance of a medical man to advise it on the various points arising on the advice of these officers as well as to give, experts in the drawing up of sanitary regulations. Would the Colonial Surgeon be required to undertake this work, or would it be deemed necessary to appoint another medical man? We are not aware how this difficulty is met at Singapore; according to the Directory the Nuisance Department is subject to the Municipality, but we do not find any medical officer of the Municipality returned. Presumably some arrangement exists with the Colonial Medical Department. The Singapore Municipality, however, seems to be a sort of hybrid institution with very restricted functions, and we should like to have further testimony as to its efficiency before adopting it as a model for Hongkong. On one point, certainly, it seems to have well defined authority, and that is with reference to the care of the streets within municipal limits, and it has as one of its officers a Municipal Engineer who has a department of his own quite distinct from that of the Colonel Engineer. Such a division would hardly be possible in Hongkong, for if we handed over the municipal work to a new officer what would then be left for the Surveyor-General to do? Even the water works would belong to the Municipality, and the duties of the Surveyor-General's department, if a Municipal Engineer's department were created, would be confined to the care of the country roads and Government buildings. The fact is the colony is too small for any such subdivision of work as this. If one of the consequences of the creation of a municipality is to be the saddling of the Colony with a number of new and unnecessary officials then the evil of the new system would go far to outweigh the good. The Straits Settlements are very differently situated from Hongkong in respect of its necessities of government. They embrace a large extent of territory and several considerable towns, and municipalities for the latter are a necessary relief to the Colonial Government. Hongkong, on the other hand, consists of one considerable town, with the addition of a few, comparatively speaking, unimportant villages. To relieve the Colonial Government of the management of the municipal affairs of the town would leave it with few, albeit they might be important, functions. At the same time it seems to us that the ratepayers are entitled, as we have long contended, to a more direct voice in the expenditure of the public funds. The question is whether this object might not be attained without resorting to the expedient of having a Municipal government working under a Colonial Government for the management of the affairs of a community of less than two hundred thousand persons. The place seems too small for an absolutely dual form of Government, but a system adopted to meet all our requirements might without difficulty be devised. The formation of the Sanitary Board was a step in the right direction and affords the nucleus of all that is needed. A new name might be given to it in order to indicate duties outside purely sanitary matters, and the Board might then be constituted as the expenditure of money by the Public Works department, whether for necessary or merely ornamental work. During the incumbency of the office by Mr. Price it would be unfair to that gentleman to disturb existing arrangements and lessen the dignity of his office by subjecting him to the dictation of a Board which was not in existence when he received his appointment; but when any new appointment is made to the office—the necessity for which we hope may be far distant—opportunity ought to be taken to effect a change in the system under which the Public Works Department now carries on. At present, as regards public works we are subject to a most distinctly one man power, for while the Legislative Council votes lump sums it exercises little or no control over the details of the expenditure. It has been said that the best form of government is a benevolent autocracy, and we may adapt the saying to Mr. Price's conduct of his department; but previous Surveyors-General have not given equal satisfaction and very possibly future ones may not. And even under Mr. Price's administration of the department, although there has never been any division of opinion as to the quality of his work, the necessity of particular undertakings has sometimes been called in question. We must do Mr. Price the justice to say that in general the public have conceded the desirability if not the necessity of the work when they have seen the improvement which it has effected in the appearance

THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES.

Unless we are greatly mistaken Renter will prove to be in error in announcing that Lord STANHOPE has been appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies. The present Earl of STANHOPE is really a political nonentity ; he sat in the House of Commons for a few years when Viscount MAHON, but in no way distinguished himself. His brother, the Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE, who in the late Parliament sat for the Horncastle division of Lincolnshire, was also President of the Board of Trade in Lord SALISBURY's last Administration and will probably prove to be the new Minister for the Colonies. He is a comparatively young man, having been born in 1840, and is generally regarded by both political parties as a promising statesman. Though not a great speaker, he is distinguished by sound common sense, and is likely to prove an energetic Minister. The Earl of DONRATON, who is said to have been appointed Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, is an Irish peer not unknown to fame, and sits in the House of Lords as Lord KENYON. The fact of a member of the Upper House having been made Under Secretary confirms our belief that the Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE and not his brother the Earl is the new Secretary for the Colonies, since either the head of the Department or the Under Secretary must occupy a seat in the House of Commons. Mr. STANHOPE was re-elected last month by his Lincolnshire constituents without opposition, his majority in 1885 having been a pretty decisive one. The new Minister will, we trust, display a keen personal interest in the consolidation of the Colonies, and not be content to merely follow old traditions as to the governance of England's great offshoots. In dealing with the Crown Colonies, too, it is to be hoped that he will take into careful consideration their special needs and their commercial possibilities. In these days of trade depression anything that can be done to foster the growth of the dependencies and the expansion of their trade should not be neglected. It is at least some comfort to know that the new Secretary for the Colonies is not a fossil of the type of Lords DUNN and KIMBERLEY, from whose domination we are at last happily emancipated.

THE HAIKWAN'S CUSTOMS
SERVICE.

The *Shanghai Collier* makes a very important statement, if correct. It has heard that one of the objects of Sir ROBERT HART's visit to the south is "to investigate the working of the Hoppo's service and to propound a scheme for its amalgamation with the Foreign Customs." It is to be feared that the obstacles in the way of the fulfilment of the project—if there be such a project—will prove too great to be easily surmounted. The post of *Hai-kwan* or Superintendent of Chinese Customs is a great prize at the disposal of the Peking Government, and its recipient invariably makes a large fortune in his brief term of three years. He is also expected to execute various commissions—at his own cost—for the Imperial family while in Canton, and on his return to the capital, he is made to disgorge a portion of his spoil before he is permitted to pass through the Anting Gate. No doubt it would not be difficult for the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs to show that the *Hai-kwan*, as competing with the Imperial Customs service, causes a greater loss to the latter than the Imperial Treasury gains by squeezing the incumbent of the post on his return to Peking. But irregular squeezing is dear to the Chinese official mind, and the loss to the Manchus of so lucrative a post as that of the *Hai-kwan* could not be readily made up. None the less we most cordially wish Sir ROBERT HART every success if he is really engaged in an effort to bring about the amalgamation of the Foreign and Native Customs services of Canton. It would put an end to the competition between them now existing, which causes serious loss to the Imperial Maritime Customs, and it would also, we trust, do away with the necessity for the maintenance of the fleet of cruisers which now harass the native trade and maintain a vexatious *captainage* over the Chinese vessels entering and leaving this port. Nor can it be doubted that the amount of smuggling would be reduced, while many impediments to trade would be smoothed away. The varying imposts levied by the *Hai-kwan* upon merchandise in native craft, and the arbitrary action in many instances of his officials, help to divert trade from this port, and go to increase the price of articles of food which are imported from places on the mainland by junk. That the *Hai-kwan* publishes no authorised tariff, that his agents collect duties from junks from Formosa and other ports which have already paid the taxes on clearance for Hongkong, are well known facts, and it is more than suspected that some of his native employees levy unauthorised squeezes on their own account, which are only paid from dread of confiscation. If, therefore Sir ROBERT HART—whose influence we know is very potential at Peking—can persuade the mandarins, that the Imperial Treasury will benefit by the abolition of the *Hai-kwan*'s post, much gen-

at good will result, and Hongkong will reap a decided advantage by the much vexed and frequently agitated question of the so-called blockade of the Colony being laid to rest. It would be interesting to know, in this connection, what, if any, decision was arrived at on the subject by the Joint Commission. A knowledge of this would help materially to enable us to judge of the chances of the reported proposed amalgamation of the two Customs Services.

THE SILVER QUESTION

In a recent article on the Bi-metallic League the *N. C. Daily News* says:—"If the value was not steady when gold was being produced in greater, and silver in smaller quantities than now, it is certain that no passing of National Conventions and Acts of Parliament would make it steady when silver was being produced in larger amounts than the world wants. Clearly, bi-metallicism is at the way out of the difficulties which our abundant silver is incurring commerce with; indeed it seems certain that its adoption would only make our case worse, and by no means better." Here there is evidently great confusion of thought and misapprehension of fact. In the first place, the difficulties of the present monetary crisis do not arise from a superabundance of silver, but from a scarcity of gold. This has been established as clearly as any proposition can be, and any of our readers may verify it for himself by examining whether his dollar or rupee will go as far now as it did ten or twelve years ago. There can only be one answer to this question if we leave out of consideration a few articles of European manufacture which have not yet shared in the general fall of all prices and for which the storekeepers have been compelled to raise their rates. Making a general average, silver and commodities maintain pretty much the same ratio towards each other that they did before the great disturbance in exchange commenced, whereas almost every article of commerce has fallen in respect to gold, and in countries with a gold standard only both rents and wages are now being reduced. These are hard facts—not speculative theories. And what is the conclusion to which they point? That the stock of gold in the world is not sufficient to meet the demands made upon it. Silver has been demonstrated to be worthless in part by the leading European nations and the United States of America, and the very limited stock of gold is now called upon to discharge alone the functions it formerly shared with silver. Gold has consequently been raised to a premium; the burden of national and private indebtedness has been increased; incomes, except those derived from funded stock, are declining; and industrial enterprise is having the heart restrained out of it by the canker worm of restricted currency. What is to be the end of

to which our contemporary refers even the dollar and tael exchange used to show fluctuations of over 5 per cent. An isolated exchange quotation therefore proves nothing. What is required is to take the ratio in the chief monetary centres of the world, and we have tables which enable us to do so. It may be useful to give these tables showing the fluctuations for the present century down to 1873. We quote them from a letter by Mr. GERALD MARTIN, of H. M.

LONDON TABLE SINCE 1333 TO 1833 MOST RELIABLE.				
Year.	Ratio.		Ratio.	
	Gold to Silver.	Gold to Silver.	Gold to Silver.	Gold to Silver.
1333	10.65	1817	15.11	
1393	10.68	1818	15.05	
1453	10.72	1819	15.35	
1513	10.74	1820	15.62	
1573	10.77	1821	15.90	
1633	10.79	1822	16.20	
1693	10.82	1823	16.54	
1753	10.84	1824	16.82	
1813	10.86	1825	17.10	
1873	10.89	1826	17.44	
1933	10.91	1827	17.76	
1993	10.93	1828	18.08	
2053	10.95	1829	18.40	
2113	10.97	1830	18.72	
2173	11.00	1831	19.04	
2233	11.02	1832	19.36	
2293	11.04	1833	19.68	
2353	11.06	1834	20.00	
2413	11.08	1835	20.32	
2473	11.10	1836	20.64	
2533	11.12	1837	20.96	
2593	11.14	1838	21.28	
2653	11.16	1839	21.60	
2713	11.18	1840	21.92	
2773	11.20	1841	22.24	
2833	11.22	1842	22.56	
2893	11.24	1843	22.88	
2953	11.26	1844	23.20	
3013	11.28	1845	23.52	
3073	11.30	1846	23.84	
3133	11.32	1847	24.16	
3193	11.34	1848	24.48	
3253	11.36	1849	24.80	
3313	11.38	1850	25.12	
3373	11.40	1851	25.44	
3433	11.42	1852	25.76	
3493	11.44	1853	26.08	
3553	11.46	1854	26.40	
3613	11.48	1855	26.72	
3673	11.50	1856	27.04	
3733	11.52	1857	27.36	
3793	11.54	1858	27.68	
3853	11.56	1859	28.00	
3913	11.58	1860	28.32	
3973	11.60	1861	28.64	
4033	11.62	1862	28.96	
4093	11.64	1863	29.28	
4153	11.66	1864	29.60	
4213	11.68	1865	29.92	
4273	11.70	1866	30.24	
4333	11.72	1867	30.56	
4393	11.74	1868	30.88	
4453	11.76	1869	31.20	
4513	11.78	1870	31.52	
4573	11.80	1871	31.84	
4633	11.82	1872	32.16	
4693	11.84	1873	32.48	
4753	11.86	1874	32.80	
4813	11.88	1875	33.12	
4873	11.90	1876	33.44	
4933	11.92	1877	33.76	
4993	11.94	1878	34.08	
5053	11.96	1879	34.40	
5113	11.98	1880	34.72	
5173	12.00	1881	35.04	
5233	12.02	1882	35.36	
5293	12.04	1883	35.68	
5353	12.06	1884	36.00	
5413	12.08	1885	36.32	
5473	12.10	1886	36.64	
5533	12.12	1887	36.96	
5593	12.14	1888	37.28	
5653	12.16	1889	37.60	
5713	12.18	1890	37.92	
5773	12.20	1891	38.24	
5833	12.22	1892	38.56	
5893	12.24	1893	38.88	
5953	12.26	1894	39.20	
6013	12.28	1895	39.52	
6073	12.30	1896	39.84	
6133	12.32	1897	40.16	
6193	12.34	1898	40.48	
6253	12.36	1899	40.80	
6313	12.38	1900	41.12	
6373	12.			

These figures show that after 1817 the greatest percentage of difference during these years was 22.9 above 15.5 and 2 below 15.5. The variation is so small enough to warrant the statement that the practical uniformity prevailed. As to the standard being alternative instead of double, this is a fact of which due account is taken by the bi-metallicists, who found on it their doctrine of compensation, by which it is contended the ratio is preserved. Thus under a double standard when one metal rises above the ratio a demand sets in for the cheaper metal, which in turn causes a diminution in the supply of the latter and an increase in the output of the former, and thus we have an automatic action preserving the ratio by means of the ordinary laws of supply and demand. The *Daily News* overstates the *Economist's* remarks, which are in large part devoted to a confutation of Mr. GIFFEN's theories, notwithstanding that the leading financial journal is, like the subject of its criticisms, monometallic. The *Economist* admits that in France the legal ratio had an effect in regulating the exchangeable value of the two metals. Within what narrow limits this exchangeable value varied is shown by the tables we have quoted above, and with international bi-metallicism the variation would practically disappear altogether.

the balance going to defray the home charges of the Government and the remittances by European residents. To make up this amount, which is measured in gold, India has to send away year by year a large quantity of produce, for which she receives no increased return. It requires little acuteness to see that this cannot be a profitable movement to India. It is profitable to the bondholders in England, of course, but the profit is an inequitable one. This brings us to a notice an article which appeared in Saturday night's *China Mail*. The writer tends in the first place to gold is the sole ultimate measure of value in the world, in silver using as well as in gold, using currencies. The latter portion of this statement is absolutely inaccurate, as throughout Asia the silver is taken as the standard of value, and to the Chinaman it is gold that is dear or cheap, not silver. But is the statement true as regards even England itself? By no means. The idea of the appreciation of gold seems inaccessible to the writer in question, but we will endeavour to make it clear to him. During the last ten years land in England has depreciated in value to the extent of twenty-five per cent. Is land therefore more plentiful or less valuable? If gold truly were the ultimate and permanent measure of value this depreciation in the value of land would be inequitable, because land could not increase in quantity except by infinitesimal reclamation, nor is it less productive now than formerly. The conclusion is therefore is that the variation is referable solely to the appreciation of gold. But, says the *China Mail* writer, there is little likelihood of England abandoning the single gold standard, and, because (and here he quotes from

the Nineteenth Century) the rest of the world (including India presumably) is indebted to Great Britain to the extent of from £1,500,000,000 to £2,000,000,000 sterling, from which Great Britain drew an annual tribute of from £800,000,000 to £900,000,000. This brings us to the point round which the final decisive struggle will be waged between the bi-metallicists and the mono-metallicists. Is commerce or usury to prevail? Are the trading interests of the country to be strengthened so that the bondholders may suffer, or their incomes increase? The latter remain the same as before measured in gold, it is true, as measured in the purchasing power of gold, they have increased twenty-five per cent. in ten years. If this increased burden of indebtedness fell only on other countries Great Britain might rest quiet as long other countries were content to let things go on in the way, but Great Britain has herself a national debt the burden of which is increasing in the same proportion, as well as the private indebtedness of the individual merchant or trader, or the landlord who has mortgage on his estate. The rents of the latter fall off as gold appreciates, but the interest on the mortgage remains the same. It is easy to see how trade must be affected in the same way, for a business which must

POLICE COURT.

10th August.

BEFORE MR. D. MACKEAN.

**CHARGE OF ENTHUSEMENT AT THE
GAM WORKS.**

HONG, clerk in the employ of the Hong
Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, was charged with
having embezzled sums of money amounting to
the property of his employers.

A prosecution was brought by Mr. H. C. R. II.
on the 11th inst. before Mr. D. Mackean, J. C. in
connection with the discovery made after an investi-
gation of the books kept by the defendant.
The entries in his books from the 11th
month of 1905 to the 11th of 1906 showed
that the defendant had received in all
of which amount he had accounted for
amounting to \$8,923.50, having falsified his
books and embezzled the balance of \$250
of which amount the defendant the latter admitted
he had embezzled the money of the Company
to the sum of \$1,841.13.

On the 11th inst. the Gas Company,
Messrs. Ming, was called, and he de-
clared to the ordinary course of conducting his
business he collected money he paid it over
to the defendant, the balance of \$250 he
paid for such amount. He stated all the
he had so paid to the prisoner from the
month last to the 24th April.

At this stage the case was further adjourned
until the 11th inst.

ALLEGED ACCOMPLICE OF BELTRAN

DE LA CRUZ, shopkeeper, residing at No.
200—street, was brought up in custody
on the 11th inst. before Mr. D. Mackean, J. C.
of the Bank of India, Australia, and China,
who received money from Pedro R. Bal-
trán, a subordinate assistant of the Spanish
Consul, who was arrested on the 11th inst.
by the police from the office of Messrs. Wotton
Mann appeared for the prosecution, Mr.
Perry for the defence.

It was proved that he was only prepared as re-
sponsible for the money received, and to justify a pre-
sumption he should apply for.

At this stage Mr. Perry was called to prove the arrest.
He was arrested the prisoner at the request
of the police, and he was taken to the
prisoner's family house in Wellington

Witness saw the defendant come back from Maeco on Saturday last, but we know of his own knowledge what he was, although he should be able to prove it.

Q—Address—Did you have any warrant?—No, no warrant.

Q—Did you see him as he was entering the house?—Yes, he was just about entering.

Q—On prepared to say he was not in his room?—No, he was not.

Q—Did he not fastid the door?—No, he was just about to fastid the door. I called to him, or twice, but he would not stop. When I told him he called to his wife, but I told him to disturb her as she was very ill.

Q—Did you not pull him out of the house?—No, he was certainly outside. He lives on the floor, and he was just about entering the of the staircase.

Q—Did I not call him?—I said I put my hand just in him across the door.

Q—Did you see a married woman?—Yes, I saw a married woman, a woman named Brijor said, in a store kept by a man named Brijor, who was a friend of his; she could not say in what street it was.

Q—Do you remember anything else?—My husband about a hank note?

Q—Address—Did you see the witness as about to die?—No, I did not see him.

Q—As it was said, objected that what was said by the witness was not the evidence of his hand in the defendant's absence could not be proved.

Q—Witness upheld the objection.

Q—Did you see him would call the woman?—No, I did not see him.

Q—To prove it.

Q—A man named Brijor was a Chinese police detective, and he was a friend of the witness, who was said by the Maeco authorities.

Q—Witness said he should prove it by his wife.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN SOUTH CHINA.

The Canton correspondent of the *N. Y. Daily News* writes, under date of the 27th ultimo: "There appears to be something stirring in the political atmosphere of an unpleasant nature. Officers of distinction are being appointed, and the military and naval line divisions are being strengthened, and forts and armaments put in order; inspection of the defense works is taken very frequent, and precautions are being taken to guard against any possible surprise. It is not to be doubted the late anti-missionary disturbances have taken place in various parts of the Empire are, as it were, giving cause to suspect that the Government are determined to take steps to enforce the payment of an indemnity for damages done. It is still acutely painful by some persons that the French will give some cause to breaking the treaty, and renewing hostilities on the coast."

Peng Yü-lin's advice to the Throne on the subject of wars with foreign nations was conveyed in a succinct manner which meant "With the Chinese people, who are not used to wars, it is better to oppose the concentrated. In other words, the Chinese active and lightly equipped troops are too many annihilated the sturdy, slow, heavy troops."

It is generally reported here that H. E. Li Ping-chang declines to take up his new appointment as Viceroy of Szechuan. No doubt H. E. Li is a man of high character, and has been a very able ruler that have occurred at Chungking late, and the further possibility of having lots to twist to suit on account of the British Mission is not to be met.

The first man for the important viceregal post

THE CHINESE GIFTS TO THE PRINCE
OF WALES.

The following documents have been forwarded to me for publication:—

No. 1372.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 7th Aug. 1886.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to transmit to you the annexed copy of a letter and enclosure from His Excellency Sir George Bowdler C.M.G., respecting the Embroidery recently presented to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in connection with the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and to request you to be good enough to communicate their contents to the parties concerned, as desired.

I enclose the inclosure to be, Sir, your most obedient servant.

(Sgd.) FREDERICK STEWART,
Act. Col. Secretary.

Wei Yui, Esq., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

SIR GEORGE BOWLER, C.M.G., TO H.E. THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT,
Atkinson Club, Pall Mall
London, 30th June, 1886.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, in original, a letter (dated on the 30th instant) addressed to me, as Governor of Hongkong, in relation to the Embroidery presented to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, by Sir Philip Calcutt-Owen, C., Secretary of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

I request you to communicate a copy of the letter, conveying the gracious sentiments of His Royal Highness, to the Chinese and Chinese gentlemen representing the mercantile community of that nation in Hongkong.

I have, do,
(Signed) G. F. BOWEN
His Excellency the Governor Administering the
Government, Hongkong.

Royal Commission, Colonial and
Indian Exhibition,
South Kensington, S.W.
25th June, 1886.

Sir,—I am directed by His Royal Highness
the Prince of Wales to request that you will
kindly convey to the Committee of the Chinese
Commission representing the Mercantile Com-
munity of Hongkong the pleasure which it has
accorded to His Royal Highness to receive from
them the beautiful piece of Chinese silk with
accompanying Ode which they have presented
to him. His Royal Highness is much gratified
to learn, from the words in which they have ex-
pressed their sentiments, that their feelings
towards the beautiful piece of Chinese silk
Rule in Hongkong. It will give the Prince
of Wales great pleasure to preserve this beautiful
specimen of Chinese art in remembrance of the
cordial co-operation which the Chinese Com-
missioners have shown to the Colonial and
Indian Exhibition of 1886.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most
obedient servant.

PHILIP CUNLIFF-OWEN,
Secretary to the Royal Commission
to His Excellency Sir George F. Bowen,
G.C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong.

**THREATENED FAMINE IN
KWANGSI**

The *Huppo* says that the price of rice in Kwangsi province has risen to more than four taels per picul, whereas, formerly, it was only about 3,000 cash per picul. The copper cash has also increased in value, recently, one tael of silver can only be exchanged for 1,300 cash, which is 200 cash less than usual. The people there have great difficulty to obtain a living, and marks of privation are plainly visible on their faces. It is undoubtedly the duty of the Government to devise means for the relief of the unfortunate inhabitants, but the treasury is empty, and the officials are unable to do anything. It is noteworthy that the province has been supplied with rice shipped from Amoy, Buremah, India, Japan, and Wuhu. Prices of rice are high, but the people are suffering from a great difficulty of transportation. The building of railroads from Tientsin to Kwangsi would greatly diminish the miseries of the people of that province.

SHANGHAI.

regret to hear of the death of Mr. Charles Rivington, which took place at the General Hospital, Shanghai, at 1.30 a.m. on the 2nd inst. The deceased gentleman arrived in China about

[illegible]

PEKING.

The Peking correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes under date of the 24th July: On the 22nd July, at a Council at the Rong-nai Palace, which all the High Imperial Princes were present, it was decided, by His Imperial Majesty's special request, that Her Majesty is to continue to reign in conjunction with His Majesty till he has attained the age of twenty years, Peking, which all the High Imperial Princes are present, one for each. This decree came into force on the 15th day of the 1st month, when a Special Edict to that effect was issued.

The *Hui-pao* states that since it has been decided that the Emperor Kwang Shih is to assume the reins of government on the 15th day of first moon, next year, the residents at Peking have all anxious to know what the Emperor will do as regards the marriage of his daughter, the Princess Kuei-ling. It has been decided that His Majesty's marriage shall take place during the year of the white horse, next year, when his wife will be an old woman.

It is stated that, however, no definite arrangement has yet been made, and that the Government intend to make another selection of the candidates for the future Empress, before performing the ceremonies of betrothal.

NEIU-HWANG.

31st Jan.

The British barge *Archos*, which left Neuwang on the 21st June for Amoy with a cargo of opium, and to put back on the 3rd July, has become wrecked by grounding on the rocks off Neuwang, where the damage was so bad, and on the 16th night the cargo was blown up and shipped.

We have already had too much rain, and the weather is becoming so severely heavy. Milling is impossible all over the country, and travelling very difficult and unpleasant. The poppy weans have been cultivated more extensively than ever, prohibitive proclamation notwithstanding.

ations before the heavier downpours occur.
The opium flower is very pretty and strong.
Whether from contact with the plant itself
or at the time it is harvested, the flowers
use of the drug wash ripe, the upper
of the respers, men, women,
aids, old and young, was unwholly, their
yellow, and bodies generally
or skin tacks. Let the authorities wink
together at the injurious cultivation of the
in China, and there need be no fear as to the
the crops of the inland provinces, and
the region in Manchuria alone, if
interfused with for a few seasons, will create
supply sufficient for all local wants and leave
good balance for exportation. Theories from
the East and other parts of the world as to
his wickedness in forcing opium on the Chinese
so absurd, in the face of the salient facts
the cultivation of the native potato, principally
because the latter interferes with the
the cultivation of the opium, the drug on
supplies the military chest. Fancy the mil-
chest of China being supplied with silver de-
from the duties and taxes levied on foreign
opium, not native.

Shanghai-shan 300 li distant, and
300 li beyond Monkon, we hear that the soldiers
are badly off for rice. A quantity, just ar-
rived from Shanghai, is leaving. The commissaries
must be sadly at fault, for the soldiers
are so small, rice, man, be

There is some talk of a Waterworks Com-
at this port. It would be easy enough, if it
did not for the winter, when the ground freezes
deep for three, four, or five miles.

Business is kept in shipping, is rather
and there will not be a great demand for goods
for a week or two.—N. C. Daily News Cor-
pondent.

A gambling farm is to be established in the province of Tonquin. The number of licenses will be unlimited. Europeans, women and children are not to be admitted to the gambling houses.

M. Paul Bert left France on the 20th July, to make a tour of inspection through the principal places of Tonquin, after which he will go to Hue where he will reside for some time. The situation at Hue is reported by the *Asseur de Tonquin* to be excellent. The King is still making

The intervention of the troops from Cochin China in the south of Annam has already, according to *Le Journal*, says, produced excellent results. Phenici, the capital of Binh-tuan province, has been compelled and a French Resident installed. Binh-tuan and Thanh-binh provinces have been freed from the influence of the mandarins flying at the approach of the French, and the native population, welcoming the French as their deliverers from the tyranny of the mandarins, have been induced to join them simply to commit excesses without number under the pretext of patriotic indignation.

The *Saigonaise* records a second passage of the rapids of Presa Giang, on the 10th of September, when the French gunboat, the *Cavallotti* forced the passage to Strung Treng in September 1891 when the water was at its highest. An accident to the machinery alone prevented. An account of this passage has now been made, but our contemporary only publishes the first part of the account of the voyage, which does not indicate what a stupendous task it was to overcome. It is, however, the proof of the practicability of the passage, not in any way disturb the good relations existing between France and the Court of Bangkok, as Article 6 of the Convention of 1893 stipulates, that the free navigation of the ports of the Mekong which touch Siamese possessions